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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 stand rejected on prior art grounds. Specifically, claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled by this Amendment. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 7 has been rewritten to depend from claim 3. New claims 8-22 have been added by this Amendment.

The rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following discussion.

It is noted that the amendments are made only to more completely define the invention and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, for narrowing the scope of the claims, or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

Applicant's invention, as disclosed and claimed, is directed to a system and method for managing personal information with increased efficiency and flexibility. In one embodiment, the system includes a group website tier made up of a plurality of group website objects, a group tier made up of a plurality of group objects, a user tier made up of a plurality of user objects, a first set of relationships that define relationships between the group website objects and the group objects, and a second set of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects. Additionally, the first set of relationships may include a first type of relationships that define which group objects have access to each of the plurality of group website objects, and a second type of relationships that define which group objects appear as content for each of the plurality of group website objects. See, e.g., *abstract, pages 14 and 15, and Fig. 1.*

Specifically, group objects may be granted access to a number of group website objects and appear as content for a number of group website objects. Similarly, group website

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objects may have a number of access member groups and a number of content member groups. A group may be a content member and an access member of a group website, in which case members of the group have access to the group website and the group members' associated profiles appear as content on the group website. Additionally, a group may be a content member only, in which case the group members do not have access to the group website, but the group members' associated profiles do appear as content on the group website. Similarly, a group may be an access member only, in which case the group members' associated profiles do not appear as content on the group website, but the group members do have access to the group website. Accordingly, the system enables permissions to a group website and the profile content of a group website to be controlled based on the content member groups and access member groups of the group website. Furthermore, because a group website object may comprise multiple access and/or content group objects, complex permission and content schemes may be implemented.

By having both access and content type relationships between group objects and group website objects, the present invention provides a personal information management system with increased administrative efficiency and security.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The 35 USC § 103 Rejection Based on Cheng in view of Hanson

The Examiner asserts:

As per claim 3, Cheng teaches the claimed subject matter except the claimed a plurality of group website objects. However, Hanson teaches the mail server 20 may also communicate with the web application server to validate the addresses of the various participants; which is readable as a plurality of group website objects (see col. 7, lines 40-45). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Cheng and Hanson with a plurality of group website objects. This modification would allow the teachings of Cheng and Hanson to provide the highest quality service based upon the participant's email application capabilities (see col. 12, lines 48-49).

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Neither Cheng nor Hanson, alone or in combination, teach or suggest "a first type of relationships that define which group objects have access to each of the plurality of group website objects; and a second type of relationships that define which group objects appear as content for each of the plurality of group website objects." This limitation, which appeared in the original claim 3, is not addressed in the rejection of claim 3 or anywhere in the Office Action. It is noted that the word "object" was added to the claim for antecedent basis purposes.

With regard to Cheng, the Office Action states that "Cheng teaches the claimed subject matter except the claimed a plurality of group website objects." Applicant agrees that the plurality of group website objects are neither taught nor suggested by Cheng, but Applicant further asserts that this is not the only deficiency of Cheng. As indicated above, the Office Action is silent with respect to the two types of relationships explicitly recited in claim 3, and Cheng fails to teach or suggest the two claimed types of relationships between the group objects and the group website objects. Cheng discloses a "relationship type" on Column 10, lines 21-51.

A virtual link 56 may or may not be transitive in nature. When a transitive relationship $r.\text{sub.1}$ is defined, and if member $m.\text{sub.1}$ relates to member $m.\text{sub.2}$ in $r.\text{sub.1}$, and $m.\text{sub.2}$ relates to $m.\text{sub.3}$ in $r.\text{sub.1}$, it follows that $m.\text{sub.1}$ also relates to $m.\text{sub.3}$ in $r.\text{sub.1}$. There is a cost associated with resolving transitive relationships. When defining a relationship type, a reverse relationship can also be specified. For example, if relationship types $r.\text{sub.1}$ and $r.\text{sub.1}'$ are defined as reverse relationships to each other, and if member $m.\text{sub.1}$ relates to $m.\text{sub.2}$ in $r.\text{sub.1}$, then $m.\text{sub.2}$ relates to $m.\text{sub.1}$ in $r.\text{sub.1}'$. The present invention provides relationships as illustrated in FIG. 7 which shows a relationship graph within an enterprise 58 or organization. The supervisor_sub_of and the subordinate_sub_of in the example above are represented by reverse links to each other in FIG. 7.

The relationships disclosed by Cheng are distinctly different than the types of relationships claimed in claim 3. In particular, Cheng's relationships address neither "which

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group objects have access to each of the plurality of group website objects" nor "which group objects appear as content for each of the plurality of group website objects." Instead, Cheng's relationships merely define relationships between objects, and the rights defined by these relationships are not addressed. Furthermore, as indicated by the Examiner, Cheng fails to teach the type of objects being related. Accordingly, Cheng fails to teach or suggest "a first type of relationships that define which group objects have access to each of the plurality of group website objects; and a second type of relationships that define which group objects appear as content for each of the plurality of group website objects."

[4, 3c-3d]

Hanson fails to make up for the deficiencies of Cheng. In fact, Hanson does not address any type of explicit relationship between any two types of objects, so it is not possible for Hanson to disclose Applicant's unique relationship types that define content and access relationships between group objects and group website objects. Accordingly, Hanson also fails to teach or suggest "a first type of relationships that define which group objects have access to each of the plurality of group website objects; and a second type of relationships that define which group objects appear as content for each of the plurality of group website objects."

Furthermore, Hanson fails to teach the type of objects being related. Specifically, Hanson fails to teach or suggest both group objects, or collections of user objects and profile objects, and group website objects, or collections of access group objects and content group objects. Accordingly, claim 3 is patentable over Cheng in view of Hanson. Additionally, claims 4-17, which depend from claim 3, are also patentable for at least these reasons.

New claim 18 is patentable because the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a method for determining an authenticated user's access rights to personal information that includes either a step for determining the group website objects to which the group objects are

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access member objects or a step for determining the content member objects that are members of the group website objects. Accordingly, claim 18 is patentable over Cheng in view of Hanson. Additionally, claims 19-22, which depend from claim 18, are also patentable for at least this reason.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon similarly fails to make up for the deficiencies of Cheng and Hanson.

For the reasons stated above, the claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited reference.

IV. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 3-22, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

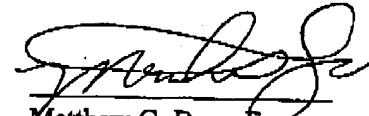
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Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 8/8/03

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